

REMARKS

The undersigned requests a personal interview with the Examiner in charge of this application to discuss the issues raised below.

Claims 1-2, 4, 9, 11, 20-21 and 54-55 were rejected as being indefinite for inconsistent reference to the slots. This has been corrected.

Claims 54-55 were rejected as being anticipated by EP 1048874.

Claims 1-2, 4, 9, 11, 20-21 and 54-55 were rejected as being unpatentable over Qian 20010040077 in view of Stehl 3,809,192.

The EP document discloses an annular channel with spaced openings communicating with channels between the braking surfaces. An annular channel does not provide the cleaning effect which is obtained by angled slots over which the brake pads cross.

Qian, as correctly pointed out by the Examiner, has slots but no openings in the bottoms of the slots. Stehl was cited for perforations in the braking surfaces for assisting in cooling of the braking surfaces. The Examiner has taken the position that it would be obvious, in view of Stehl, to insert openings in the bottoms of the slots of Qian. Applicant disagrees with this position because there is no suggestion anywhere for combining slots with openings covering only portions of the slots. The motivation for this can only come from the teachings of the present application.

In view of the art cited, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the bottom of each elongated slot is provided with a plurality of spaced openings as illustrated in Fig. 1A of the drawings. It is believed that there is nothing in the art of record to suggest this combination of features.

Claim 54 has been amended to recite a plurality of angled and spaced elongated slots. This distinguishes clearly over the EP document which shows only an annular groove.

Claim 55 has been canceled.

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It is believed that the claims as amended clearly distinguish over the above references and should be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned or Mr. Kroll if further changes are required to obtain allowance of the application.

A favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Mail Stop Amendment PO BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 on Jan. 9, 2006.


Leonard Belkin